

Finance and Government Operations Commission Meeting Minutes
Middletown, Connecticut
February 27, 2013
Municipal Building Room 208
7:00 P.M.

Present: Ronald Klattenberg, Philip Pessina, Joseph Bibisi, Hope Kasper, William Russo,
Councilwoman Deb Kleckowski, Carl Erlacher, Geen Thazhampallath, Guy Russo
Aleyamma Thazampallath

Absent: Thomas Serra

1. Ronald Klattenberg requested a motion to approve the minutes from the January 30, 2013 Finance & Government meeting. Hope Kasper made the motion, seconded by Phil Pessina.
2. Public Comments for the items on the Agenda: None
3. The following Departments are scheduled to discuss their budget and programs:

A. Parking Department: - Request for two Parking Department staff to attend Northeast Regional Parking Association Meeting in Hartford in March; Resolution requesting bid waiver to use Laird Plastics for purchase and installation of security glass in the Parking Department & Tax Collectors Office, LoCIP application to be made to State, cost not to exceed \$8565.

- Geen Thazhampallath requested to attend the Northeast Regional Parking Association Meeting in Hartford along with Roger Beliveau; the cost for two attendees is \$500.00. Geen stated that the money was in his Parking budget.
- Phil made motion to approve, Joseph Pessina seconded, approved unanimously.
- Geen asked to have the second item pulled from the agenda regarding the bid waiver and stated that he would be going in front of the Standardization Committee first. Hope made motion to accept the withdrawal and Phil seconded.

B. Water/Sewer Department: Resolution to transfer \$60,000 of funds allocated for foreclosure proceedings back to the Water Fund balance.

- Joe made motion to approve and Phil seconded; Hope not present.

-Approved to send to Council Floor-

C. Public Works: - Resolution to execute a Grant Agreement with the State for \$300,000 to assist with the construction of a Military Museum at Veteran's Park.

- William Russo stated that a \$300,000 grant was acquired with the help of Senator Doyle's Office to assist in the construction of the Military Museum which will be located in Veteran's Memorial Park.

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- Carl stated that we have to expend the funds first and then we will receive the \$300,000 grant which will be deposited back into the General Fund as a reimbursement.
- Bill also stated that the master plan for the museum and the park are located in the Planning & Zoning Department and that he would like to see a small building committee be set up to oversee the project.
- Ronald Klattenberg will report this information to the Building Committee on 2/28/13.
- Phil made motion to approve, Hope seconded.

-Approved unanimously to send to Council Floor-

D. Pension Resolutions: – Requesting use of consultants(s) by Pension Board to study effect of new legislation on the Pension Fund, \$20,000 budgeted in Common Council budget for this purpose.

- Hope stated that the Retirement Board has met and discussed the need for this study; she stated that the Pension Board has many concerns regarding the new legislation which will take effect June 2013, as well as the early retirement, disbursements with the Police alumni.
- Hope stated that she was very pleased to report the entire Pension Board unanimously approved the recommendation from the actuary to fund Police and Fire at the amount the actuary recommended.
- Ron asked if they have selected a consultant yet.
- Hope stated that the Pension Board would be conducting this study; they will be selecting the consultant upon the recommendation of Jerry Goldberg.
- Ron also inquired if it was possible to give the F & G Committee a briefing once this study was completed before this was brought to the Council.
- Hope said, yes.

E. Other: – Emergency Management

- Bruce Driska requested the Appropriation in the amount of \$5,740.00 for the purchase of safety gear for the Emergency Management volunteer personnel.
- Hope stated that they discussed this Appropriation at the Public Safety meeting and also spoke with the Finance Department regarding miscellaneous CNR money. Hope suggested that they use the money from the CNR line rather than doing an Appropriation.
- Carl stated that they could do that but this board had to authorize the transfer and then they could pull it from the Council Agenda.
- Joe made motion and Hope seconded, approved unanimously.
- Carl will inform Marie Norwood to pull off of the Council Agenda.

F. Finance Department:

- Ron asked Phil to lead in this discussion regarding the blizzard OT. Phil began the discussion by thanking the Mayor and the City Workers for their outstanding efforts through-out the entire storm.
Phil asked if this was the complete expenditure report, Carl stated it was as of 2/26/13.
- Carl stated that the only line item in the negative was the Public Works for \$145,000; the Police Department and Park & Rec Departments were able to absorb the OT costs into their budgets.
- Phil asked Carl if the Mayor had notified the Governor that we were in a State of Emergency during the blizzard.
- Carl's response was, yes.

- Carl indicated that Bob Dobmeier is still in the process of compiling all of the FEMA paperwork, roughly 75% will be reimbursed through FEMA.
- Hope discussed the possible need for larger equipment, especially with global warming in effect. The storms that we are experiencing seem to be, "Super Storms and are going to become the norm."
- William Russo stated that there were a few issues with equipment, but for the most part everything was used to its capability. The storm was intense and everyone worked around the clock.
- Phil asked Bill if there was an After Action Report compiled, so in the future they can prepare a better game plan. Bill said that there was a plan and Sal Emanuele did a fantastic job with execution.
- Bill stated that the Public Works Department has 28 trucks; they are only able to replace one truck each year.
- Carl stated the Governor is going to give Middletown an extra million dollars in LoCIP funding this year while also loosening the restrictions. He suggested putting an influx of money into the CNR budget and doing a priority list for CNR purchases; while stating that this was not a guarantee, but it could happen.
- Bill informed the committee that on Friday March 1st he was having a meeting with the 4 Heavy Equipment Supervisors and another meeting with the Mechanics to get their feedback, once complied he will bring this information back to F & G.
- Phil also asked if Bill and Guy Russo would bring back to the F & G Committee an After Action Report for them to review.
- Ron spoke regarding his request of Carl to provide an analysis of the Governor's Budget and how it will have an effect on our City.
- Carl stated the things keeping changing, the first go around was a 5.6 million shortfall; then we were going to have to allocate over 4 million dollars to education and they were going to cut our state pilot funding entirely which is roughly 2.5 million. Then we learned that for towns that have lost their state pilot funding you didn't have to put the full 4 million into education. Carl stated that he is not sure what the Mayor's decision will be on the budget.
- Carl also made a comment that the Governor's Office was not likely to pass a budget until June, we are just going to have to prepare our budget using our best case scenario.
- Carl also commented on the Mayors initial directive to ALL departments to do a zero based budget including absorbing all salaries into the figures. Then the Mayor requested that all departments come up with a budget with a 10% decrease. The department heads will be meeting on Monday to discuss their figures.
- Hope discussed the bill before the legislature, in which she asked Matt Lesser to purpose regarding the reimbursement to the City for the Workman's Comp claims for Police Officers working Private Duty. Hope had brought this before the Public Safety Committee and is looking for support from this committee as well.
- Ron made a suggestion to Hope to have her bring the draft bill to this committee and use that as the vehicle to say this we support it.

4. Regular Reports

Transfer of Funds
City's Investments

- Information Only -

- Approved to send to Council Floor -

Meeting Adjourned

Tracks: 187-199

Next Meeting March 27, 2013, 7:00 pm in Room 208

Respectfully

Submitted by,

Tracy Vess on behalf of Carl R. Erlacher